



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

OPERATION PREDATOR ARRESTS SURPASS 5,000

*The state of Florida accounts for more than 200 arrests in
targeting child sex predators*

MIAMI, FLORIDA – More than 200 of the 5,000 child sex offenders arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as part of an ongoing international initiative known as Operation Predator have occurred in Florida -- making the state one of the top 10 in the nation for arrests of child sex predators.

Michael J. Garcia, Homeland Security Assistant Secretary for ICE, announced today that arrests in the 20-month long effort have surpassed 5,000 nationwide. Among those individuals arrested here are:

- Kent Frank, 45, was indicted March 3 on charges of sexual exploitation of children under 18. Frank's case is pending prosecution before the U.S. Attorney's office for the Southern District of Florida. This is the first case in Florida in which charges have been brought under the child sex tourism provisions of Protect Act. This law, passed in 2003, provides ICE with an additional investigative tool that helps bring to justice those who sexually assault children abroad.
- On Feb. 23, William David Kamal, 48, a South Florida weatherman, was sentenced to five years in federal prison for his role in the attempted solicitation of sex from a minor via the Internet. Kamal was arrested and charged Oct. 24, 2004, as he attempted to solicit sex with a minor.
- Alexander Cuados, 40, a Colombian citizen, was sentenced to five years in prison for distribution of child pornography. Cuados was arrested and charged July 2, 2003, after agents discovered thousands of images of sexually explicit child pornography, many depicting images of infants.

Operation Predator is a comprehensive initiative aimed at those who prey on and exploit children, including human traffickers, international sex tourists, Internet pornographers and foreign national predators whose crimes make them deportable.

“Sexual predators should beware -- you will not go unpunished for your heinous crimes,” said Jesus Torres, ICE Special Agent-in-Charge for the Miami office. “ICE will find you and bring to justice, no matter where you live, in the United States or abroad.”

Operation Predator evolved out of ICE’s mission to find and deport illegal aliens -- particularly those with criminal records -- and reflects the agency’s traditional public safety mission. Those arrested fall into four general categories:

Foreign National Child Predators: More than 85 percent of the arrests in Operation Predator involve foreign national sex offenders whose crimes make them removable from the United States. To date, more than 2,100 of these predators have been deported.

International Child Sex Tourists: Working cooperatively with foreign governments through ICE’s attaché offices worldwide, ICE agents have made 14 arrests under the child sex tourism provisions of the Protect Act.

Human Smuggling and Trafficking of Children: The criminal networks engaged in human smuggling and trafficking have become more violent and more profit-driven than ever before. At the same time, some of their victims are getting younger and younger.

Internet Child Pornography: Drawing on ICE’s cyber crime investigative expertise, ICE is tackling the crimes that cross the nation’s virtual borders. One massive investigation has resulted in more than 1,200 arrests worldwide and marks the first time the government has gone after the financial side of child pornography. Moreover, through the National Child Victim Identification System, more than 1,600 pornographic images containing child pornography have been authenticated.

Additional information about Operation Predator is available on the Web at www.ice.gov. ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.